

Bipartisan Bill Now Has More Than 80 Cosponsors

WASHINGTON - A bill introduced by U.S. Reps Harry Mitchell and Ron Paul to block the automatic pay raise Members of Congress are currently set to receive in Fiscal Year 2011 is continuing to gain momentum with a wide bipartisan coalition of support. The bill, introduced late last month, has garnered support from 83 members of the U.S. House of Representatives who have signed on as cosponsors of H.R. 4255.

H.R. 4255, the Stop the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress in FY2011 Act, would require members to forgo their scheduled Fiscal Year 2011 pay raise.

"The growing support from so many of my colleagues is a clear indicator that this is the wrong time for Congress to increase its own pay," said Mitchell. "In these tough economic times, with unemployment so high and so many families struggling to make ends meet, I believe it would be unconscionable for Congress to give itself a raise. The American people aren't getting a pay raise right now. Neither should Congress."

"Last week's staggering unemployment figures demonstrate that many Americans are still suffering the after effects of the misguided economic policies of the last several decades," said Paul. "It is wrong for Congress, which bears responsibility for so many of these problems, to give itself a pay raise."

In 1989, Congress approved a process that provides lawmakers with an automatic pay raise unless they vote specifically to reject the raise.

In 2009, Mitchell and Paul were successful in blocking the FY 2010 pay raise after introducing similar legislation, H.R. 156, which garnered 118 cosponsors. Members of Congress did not receive an anticipated \$4,700 raise in 2009, which has saved taxpayers approximately \$2.5

million. [Source: [The Hill](#) , February 24, 2009]

In 2008, Mitchell and Paul also introduced legislation to block the FY 2009 pay raise, which, despite gaining 34 bipartisan cosponsors, did not reach the floor of the House for a vote.

In 2007, Mitchell offered a similar bill to block the FY2008 pay raise, which attracted 29 co-sponsors. Mitchell took office in 2007.

When Mitchell received pay raises in FY2008 and FY2009, he donated those pay raises to Arizona charities. [Source: [East Valley Tribune](#) , April 16, 2009]

The projected amount of the January 2011 automatic pay adjustment is expected to be determined at the end of the month. It is determined by a formula using the Employment Cost Index and is based on the Index's percentage change reflected in the quarter ending December 31 for the two preceding years, minus 0.5%. Pay for Member of Congress is now \$174, 000.

In addition to Mitchell and Paul, the bill's 83 co-sponsors include: Reps. John Adler (D-NJ), Rodney Alexander (R-LA), Jason Altmire (D-PA), Michael Arcuri (D-NY), Steve Austria (R-OH), John Barrow (D-GA), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Bobby Bright (D-AL), Michael C. Burgess (R-TX), Dan Burton (R-IN), Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Christopher P. Carney (D-PA), Travis Childers (D-MS), Howard Coble (R-NC), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Kathleen A. Dahlkemper (D-PA), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Joe Donnelly (D-IN), Steve Driehaus (D-OH), Brad Ellsworth (D-IN), John Fleming (R-LA), Bill Foster (D-IL), Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ), Sam Graves (R-MO), Parker Griffith (D-AL), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), John Hall (D-NY), Ralph Hall (R-TX), Debbie Halvorson (D-IL), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD), Baron Hill (D-IN), Paul Hodes (D-NH), Lynn Jenkins (R-KS), Tim Johnson (R-IL), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Steve Kagen (D-WI), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Ron Kind (D-WI), Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Larry Kissell (D-NC), Suzanne M. Kosmas (D-FL), Rep. Frank Kratovil Jr. (D-MD), Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), David Loebsack (D-IA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Betsy Markey (D-CO), Eric Massa (D-NY), Michael McCaul (R-TX), Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-MI), Jerry McNerney (D-CA), John L. Mica (R-FL), Mike Michaud (D-ME), Walt Minnick (D-ID), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Patrick Murphy (D-PA), Scott Murphy (D-NY), Tim Murphy (R-PA), Sue Myrick (R-NC), Glenn Nye (D-VA), Pete Olson (R-TX), Tom Perriello (D-VA), Gary Peters (D-MI), Collin Peterson (D-MN), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Todd Russell Platts (R-PA), Jared Polis (D-CO), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), Tom Rooney (R-FL), Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), Ike Skelton (D - MO),

Momentum Grows for Mitchell, Paul Anti-Pay Raise Bill

Wednesday, 13 January 2010 08:19

John Shimkus, (R-IL), Heath Shuler (D-NC), Adam Smith (D-WA), Gene Taylor (D-MS), Harry Teague (D-NM), Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Zach Wamp (R-TN), Robert Wittman (R-VA).

An online list of cosponsors can be found [here](#) .